

I CLAIM

1. A photographic film strip comprising a length of photographic film having a pre-exposed area and an unexposed area, the pre-exposed area extending adjacent one edge of the strip and
5 comprising a continuous pre-exposure extending from adjacent one end of the strip to adjacent a second end of the strip, the unexposed area also comprising a continuous portion of the film strip having a length suitable for making multiple single exposure frames with adjacent frames being separated by a frame line, whereby upon development the film an image formed by the pre-exposed section of each print will extend between opposite edges of prints formed by individual
10 frames without the need to preregister the film in a camera, wherein the pre-exposure comprises a contact exposure.

2. The photographic film strip of claim 1 wherein the film has sprocket holes extending along opposite edges.

3. The photographic film strip of claim 1 wherein the film is housed in a film cannister.

4. The photographic film strip of claim 1 wherein a repeating image is exposed in the pre-exposed area.

5. An apparatus for pre-exposing a first portion of a photographic film strip for subsequent use in a camera in which a remaining portion of the photographic film strip is to be exposed, the apparatus comprising:

- 20 a light tight enclosure;
- a cylindrical drum located in the light tight enclosure;
- a master image disposed on a peripheral rim of the cylindrical drum, the master image including an opaque section and an image section;
- a light source located on the interior of the cylindrical drum; and
- 25 means for holding an initially unexposed photographic film strip in registry with the master image with the first portion in registry with the image section of the master image and with the remaining portion of the photographic film strip in registry with the at least part of the opaque section of the master image;
- and means for activating the light source to expose the first portion of the photographic

film strip.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the image section of the master image extends substantially between opposite ends of the master image so that a first portion extending substantially between opposite ends of the photographic film strip can be exposed by a single activation of the light source.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the image section is substantially continuous so that a substantially continuous first portion of the photographic film strip can be exposed by a single activation of the light source.

8. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the means holding an initially unexposed photographic film strip in registry with a master image comprises means for holding an emulsion side of the unexposed photographic film strip in contact with an emulsion side of the master image.

9. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the cylindrical drum is rotatable about an axis and includes a film latching member adjacent one end of the master image so that after attachment of the unexposed photograph film to the film latching member, rotation of the drum results in deployment of the unexposed photographic film in registry with the master image.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein a film cannister mount is located on the light tight enclosure adjacent cylindrical drum, so that a film cannister can be mounted on the film cannister mount and a film leader extending from the film cannister can be attached to a film latching member on the cylindrical drum so that rotation of the cylindrical drum initially draws the unexposed photographic film from the film cannister prior to exposure of the first section and wherein the photographic film, after exposure of the first section, can then be returned to the film cannister by rotation of the cylindrical drum an opposite direction.

11. The apparatus of claim 5 including a translucent strip located between the light source and the master image, the translucent strip comprising means for diffusing light from the light source.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the translucent strip is located between the light source and the peripheral rim of the cylindrical drum.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein multiple translucent strips are located between the light source and the master image.

14. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the master image comprises a previously exposed film strip.

15. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein a continuous image is exposed along one edge of the master image, the continuous image extending between opposite ends of the master image.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein remaining master image portions, other than the continuous image between opposite ends of the master image, are opaque.

17. A process for fabricating a photographic film strip having a pre-exposed first portion and an unexposed second portion for use in a camera in which the unexposed second portion will be exposed as successive frames, the process comprising the steps of:

fabricating a master film strip by successively exposing a section adjacent one edge of the film strip to a first image through a frame aperture having one area with a width greater than the width of a frame to be exposed in the camera to form an exposed first section having a length greater than the width of the frame;

positioning the master film strip in contact with the photograph film strip with an emulsion side of each film strip contacting an emulsion side of the other film strip; and

exposing only the portion of the photographic film strip in contact with the exposed first section of the master film strip along one edge to light to pre-expose the first portion of the photographic film so that the pre-exposed first portion will extend laterally beyond opposite edges of each frame to be formed on the photograph film strip and the photographic film strip need not be precisely registered when loaded into the camera.

18. The process of claim 17 wherein a remaining section of the master film strip beside the exposed section is opaque so that only the first portion of the photographic film strip will be exposed before being positioned in the camera.

19. The process of claim 17 wherein a continuous exposed section is formed on the master film strip between opposite edges of the master film strip.

20. The process of claim 19 wherein the continuous exposed section is formed by a single flash of a light source.

21. A camera in which a film cannister with a film strip can be loaded and exposed through a film frame aperture located behind a lens, the camera including a shiftable partition located adjacent one edge of the film frame aperture, the shiftable partition being movable between a first and a second position such that when the shiftable partition is in the first position, the film frame

aperture is completely open and when the shiftable partition is in the second position, a portion of the film frame aperture along the one edge is blocked to prevent exposure of film behind the shiftable partition, so that the camera can be used with an unexposed film strip when the shiftable partition is in the first position and the camera can be used with a partially pre-exposed film strip when the shiftable partition is in the second position.

22. The camera of claim 21 wherein the camera comprises a single use camera in which the film is progressively advanced into the film cannister as film frames are successively exposed.

23. An assembly including a re-usable camera and a film cannister loaded in the camera so that a film strip in the film cannister can be exposed through a film frame aperture located behind a lens, the camera including a partition positionable adjacent one edge of the film frame aperture, the partition being displaceable relative to the frame aperture, the film strip including a pre-exposed first section and an unexposed second section, the film strip being positioned so that the partition, when positioned adjacent one edge of the film aperture, covers the pre-exposed first section as portions of the film strip move sequentially through the film frame aperture.

24. The assembly of claim 23 wherein the camera includes a take up spool and the filmstrip includes a leader on a forward end of the filmstrip, the leader being attached to the take up spool with the majority of the film strip being housed in the film cannister on an opposite side of the film frame aperture than the take up spool, the filmstrip being advanced by rotation of the take up spool so that unexposed sections of the filmstrip can be exposed without further exposure of the pre-exposed sections.

25. The assembly of claim 24 wherein the pre-exposed section comprises a continuous strip extending along one edge of the film strip.

26. The assembly of claim 24 wherein the partition comprises a shiftable partition.

27. The assembly of claim 26 wherein the shiftable partition can be shifted to the first position after exposure of the filmstrip in the film cannister to permit use of the reusable camera with a filmstrip without a pre-exposed section.

28. A reusable camera for use with either film canisters containing film with pre-exposed images along a film section or for use with film canisters containing film without pre-exposed images on the film, the reusable camera comprising:

a lens aligned with a frame aperture, and a film take up spool on one side of the frame aperture and a cavity for receiving one of either of said film canisters on an opposite side of the frame aperture, the camera also including means for advancing the film one frame at a time from the film cannister to the film take up spool, and also including means for rewinding film into the film canister after exposure of individual frames on the film;

the reusable camera being characterized by a partition alignable with a portion of the frame aperture when a film canister containing film with pre-exposed images is loaded in the camera so that the partition covers pre-exposed images on film containing pre-exposed images along one film section, the partition being displaceable from the frame aperture when a film canister containing film without pre-exposed images on the film is loaded in the camera.

29. The reusable camera of claim 28 wherein the partition comprises a shiftable partition located adjacent one edge of the film frame aperture, the shiftable partition being movable between a first and a second position such that, when the shiftable partition is in the first position, the film frame aperture is completely open, and when the shiftable partition is in the second position, a portion of the film frame aperture along the one edge is blocked to prevent exposure of film behind the shiftable partition

30. The reusable camera of claim 29 wherein the partition is shiftable after film is loaded in the camera and the camera is closed.